

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing, reexamination and reconsideration of the application identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

I. Amendments to the Claims

By the foregoing amendment, claim 14 has been amended to be placed in independent form and claim 17 has been amended to depend on now independent claim 14. Support for the amendments to claims can be found throughout the originally filed application. Thus, no new matter has been added. Additionally, claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8-12, 15, 16, and 18-25 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to any subject matter recited therein.

Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuation and/or divisional applications directed to any canceled subject matter.

II. Response to Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 17, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as purportedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. *See* OFFICE ACTION at 2-3. This rejection is respectfully traversed. However, to expedite prosecution in the present application without acquiescing to the merits of the rejection, claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 17, and 25 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter recited therein. The Examiner's rejection is thus rendered moot.

III. Response to Claim Objection

The Examiner has maintained the objection to claim 14 for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. *See* OFFICE ACTION at 2 and 3. This objection is respectfully traversed.

In response to the claim objection, claim 14 has been amended to be in independent form. Thus, this objection is now moot.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order. Such action is earnestly solicited.

In the event that there are any questions related to this Amendment and Reply, or the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed telephone number concerning such questions so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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